



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

INDIANA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
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Released: Monday, 3PM

April 24, 2000

Vol. 50, #3

West Lafayette, IN 47907

CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 23

Farmers welcomed the rain last week. Both topsoil and subsoil moisture ratings improved significantly from a week ago, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Most areas in the state received more than an inch of precipitation. Fieldwork and planting operations continued where soil conditions permitted use of equipment.

WINTER WHEAT

Eighty percent of the **winter wheat** acreage is **jointed**, compared with 71 percent last year and 51 percent for the 5-year average. Wheat condition was virtually unchanged from a week earlier. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 75 percent good to excellent, compared with 81 percent at this time a year ago.

SEED BED PREPARATION

Eleven percent of the **corn** acreage is planted compared with 5 percent last year and 6 percent for the 5-year average. A few fields of corn have emerged in the southwestern areas of the state. Two percent of the **soybean** acreage is planted, on par with a year ago at this time. Field activities were slowed last week in many areas. Farmers continued to apply fertilizer and nitrogen, prepare soils, spread chemicals and prepare equipment for planting.

OTHER CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

Availability of hay and roughage supplies was rated 6 percent surplus, 69 percent adequate 20 percent short and 5 percent very short. **Pasture condition** was rated 6 percent excellent, 46 percent good, 32 percent fair, 12 percent poor and 4 percent very poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition. Calving and lambing remain active.

DAYS SUITABLE and SOIL MOISTURE

For the week ending Friday, 2.7 days were rated **suitable for fieldwork**. **Topsoil moisture** was rated 3 percent very short, 13 percent short, 66 percent adequate and 18 percent surplus. **Subsoil moisture** was rated 15 percent very short, 39 percent short, 43 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Planted	11	5	5	6
Soybeans Planted	2	0	2	NA
Winter Wheat Jointed	80	65	71	51
Winter Wheat Headed	0	0	1	1

CROP CONDITION

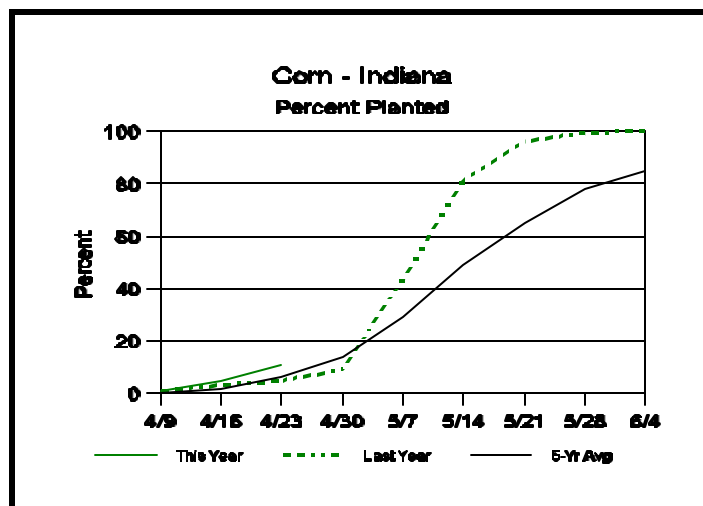
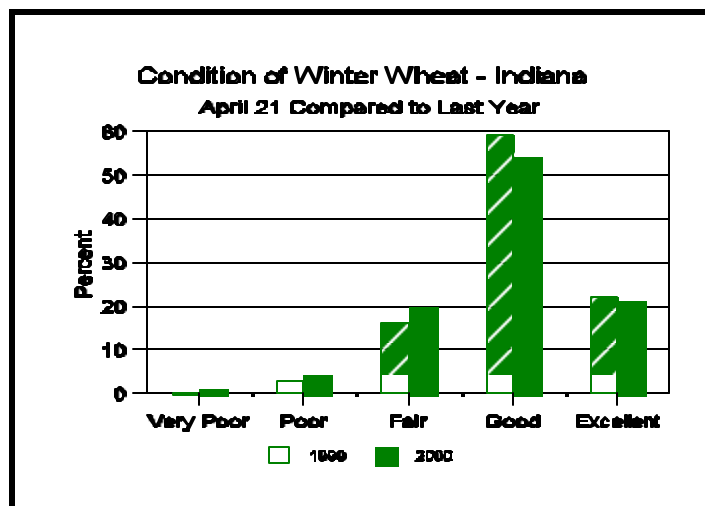
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Winter Wheat 4/23	1	4	20	54	21
Winter Wheat 4/16	1	3	21	57	18
Winter Wheat 1999	0	3	16	59	22
Pasture	4	12	32	46	6

SOIL MOISTURE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	3	16	0
Short	13	33	2
Adequate	66	45	45
Surplus	18	6	53
Subsoil			
Very Short	15	32	0
Short	39	42	5
Adequate	43	24	62
Surplus	3	2	33

--Ralph W. Gann, State Statistician
--Bud Bever, Agricultural Statistician
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Crop Progress



Wheat Disease Prospects

! So far, no major disease problems in

As of now, the wheat crop in Indiana does not appear to have major disease problems. There have been isolated reports of yellowing, which is most likely the result of infection by one or both of two common soilborne viruses - wheat spindle streak mosaic virus and soilborne wheat mosaic virus. Symptoms of these viruses appear during periods of wide temperature fluctuation. Considering the widely fluctuating temperatures that characterized weather this spring, we might have expected to see much more infection by these viruses. Both viruses survive in a soilborne fungus (*Polymyxa graminis*) and are transmitted to wheat when this fungus infects roots. Infection of roots requires wet soils. The dry conditions during the fall, winter, and early spring probably were unfavorable for infection by the fungus, and therefore unfavorable for infection by the viruses.

Two of the most destructive diseases of wheat in Indiana - *Septoria* blotch and *Stagonospora* blotch - are unlikely to be a serious problem unless there is an abrupt change in weather pattern very soon. These pathogens blight foliage and one of them also blights heads (glume blotch). Both require several prolonged wet periods during the growing season to cause severe infection. Even though we have had some

rains recently throughout the state, these have not been of the type that is so favorable for leaf blotch -- a "steady drizzle" that persists for 2 or 3 days.

Leaf and stem rust are always a threat, but most varieties have good to moderate resistance, so a widespread epidemic is unlikely. Unlike *Septoria* and *Stagonospora*, the leaf and stem rust fungi do not require prolonged wet periods to infect. A few hours of dew during the night are sufficient for infection. Stem rust requires warmer temperatures than leaf rust for optimum development, so we usually only see this disease when wheat maturity is delayed. The rapid development of wheat we are seeing this year, because of the unusually warm spring, makes it unlikely that stem rust will have a chance to develop before the crop matures. Leaf rust is more common in Indiana than is stem rust. If a variety happens to be susceptible to leaf rust, it could suffer damage.

Powdery mildew is favored by lush, dense crop canopies, high rates of nitrogen fertilizer, and cloudy and humid weather. I have not seen any significant powdery mildew this year, nor have I received any calls about it or seen it on specimens submitted to the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory. Many varieties grown in Indiana have a degree of resistance to powdery mildew, but a few are susceptible. Powdery mildew can be a rather

(Continued on Page 4.)

Weather Data

Week ending Sunday April 23, 2000

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	April 1, 2000 thru April 23, 2000				
								Precipitation		GDD Base 50°F		
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_Ag	63	37	50	-2	2.17	6	55	4.05	+0.99	11	34	-17
Wanatah	70	34	49	-1	2.60	5		3.77	+0.84	9	36	-1
Wheatfield	72	35	50	-1	1.90	6		2.96	+0.03	10	43	+3
Winamac	70	35	50	-2	1.75	5		53	2.60	-0.25	6	45
North Central (2)												
Logansport	75	36	52	+1	1.19	6		1.71	-0.93	12	49	-3
Plymouth	69	33	50	-4	3.00	5		4.24	+1.27	10	43	-18
South_Bend	67	32	49	-3	2.58	6		3.62	+0.63	14	44	+0
Young_America	72	35	52	+2	0.72	6		1.20	-1.44	9	74	+22
Northeast (3)												
Bluffton	68	36	51	-2	1.77	5	50	2.35	-0.51	8	52	-5
Fort_Wayne	66	34	51	-1	1.44	5		2.07	-0.54	8	57	+9
West Central (4)												
Crawfordsville	73	33	52	-3	1.11	5	54	1.83	-1.32	10	47	-34
Perrysville	72	34	53	-1	1.56	3	56	1.99	-0.98	5	60	-10
Terre_Haute_Ag	77	36	53	-2	0.93	4	57	2.88	-0.04	8	77	-12
W_Lafayette_6NW	71	35	53	+2	0.67	5	54	1.06	-1.76	8	72	+17
Central (5)												
Castleton	75	37	53	-1	1.27	4	54	3.36	+0.54	12	65	-7
Greenfield	73	37	53	+0	1.15	5		4.08	+1.02	13	69	+6
Greensburg	76	38	53	-1	1.64	4		4.78	+1.72	11	74	+0
Indianapolis_AP	75	35	54	-1	1.41	5		3.73	+0.94	12	88	+7
Indianapolis_SE	74	36	53	-2	1.34	4		4.05	+1.23	9	67	-5
Tipton_Ag	75	34	52	+1	0.48	5		1.12	-1.87	10	52	+10
East Central (6)												
Farmland	75	3	49	-2	1.50	5	49	4.45	+1.71	13	52	+14
New_Castle	72	34	50	-2	1.10	4		3.77	+0.66	14	42	+0
Southwest (7)												
Dubois_Ag	78	38	54	-3	0.91	5	57	3.33	+0.13	11	107	-2
Evansville	78	34	56	-2	0.28	2		1.78	-1.25	6	137	-8
Freelandville	76	38	53	-3	1.44	4	52	3.98	+1.10	7	79	-22
Shoals	78	36	53	-3	1.13	4		2.79	-0.28	9	80	-20
Vincennes_5NE	80	36	54	-2	1.10	4		2.40	-0.48	9	82	-19
South Central (8)												
Bloomington	76	35	53	-3	1.63	5		3.87	+0.94	9	70	-29
Tell_City	79	38	55	-3	0.20	2		2.43	-1.25	7	116	-12
Southeast (9)												
Scottsburg	77	37	55	-1	2.16	3		4.26	+1.07	9	93	-8

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Wheat Disease Prospects (continued)

insidious disease. Under our conditions, it usually does not progress up to the flag leaf. So, inspection of a field while driving down the road, or even while standing at the edge, may fail to detect what may be a severe infection. It is necessary to go out into the field and look beneath the topmost leaves. Even though the upper canopy may be a deep green and the stand appears thick, there can be a lot of powdery mildew down in the canopy. Main culms seem to withstand infection fairly well, but powdery mildew can essentially shut many tillers off at about the time they are heading.

Heads fail to emerge, or cease development shortly after emergence and produce no grain. Severe powdery mildew can greatly reduce the number of productive heads per acre.

As I mentioned at the outset, the wheat crop appears to be generally healthy this year. However, it is still a good idea to walk fields and scout for any problems. Resistant varieties are the main strategy for managing these wheat diseases. If a problem is noted, think about changing varieties next year. Early scouting will also allow timely application of a fungicide if a problem is starting to develop.

–Gregory Shaner, Purdue University

The INDIANA CROP WEATHER REPORT (USPS 675-770), (ISSN 0442-817X) is issued weekly April through November by the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, Purdue University, 1148 AgAd Bldg, Rm 223, West Lafayette IN 47907-1148. Second Class postage paid at Lafayette IN. For information on subscribing, send request to above address. POSTMASTER: Send address change to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service, Purdue University, 1148 AgAd Bldg, Rm 223, West Lafayette IN 47907-1148.
